

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR. 8 July 1955

SUBJECT Possible Role for Max Fechner in the  
SED Reunification Campaign

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PLACE  
ACQUIRED

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(LISTED BELOW)

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DATE OF  
INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO  
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[redacted] the Soviets believe  
ex-Minister of Justice Fechner to be the most typical representative  
of the former SPD in the GDR. Fechner was released from prison while  
Semenov visited East Berlin. [redacted] Fechner  
was given the mission of contacting leading SPD circles in West Germany  
with a view to isolating the right wing of the party from the bulk of  
its membership. The ultimate purpose of this maneuver was to strengthen  
left-wing tendencies within the SPD which would be useful in the event  
of a reunification of Germany. The Soviets hold that Grotewohl and  
Buchwitz lost much prestige in the eyes of West German Socialists.

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Comment. No other information has been received so far on a  
rehabilitation of Fechner. The present report indicates that SED circles  
are considering the problem of **selecting persons with the greatest**  
**possible appeal in West Germany in connection with their campaign for the**  
**reunification of Germany. It appears that they consider**  
**top-level SED leaders unsuited for this mission.**

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